

HOUSE BILL 541

By Powers

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-1-303, relative to an official state poem of Tennessee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-1-303, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(c) The poem entitled, "My Beloved Tennessee" by Marlene Tidwell, is designated and adopted as an official state poem for this state. The poem reads as follows:

My thoughts wander on your path again
Captivated by the beauty of rolling hills
That rise above a road that bends,
As dusk spreads mist across the fields.
I heard the piping of the morning lay
And gazed on scenes from yesteryears,
When open come the gates of May,
And in purple ruffles the Iris appears.
Cherished memories thou doth hold,
Sweet home in Tennessee, to you I hope
To come before the winds grow cold.

Nestled in vales, quaint barns of old
Stood in wait for the gathering harvest

Scattered across autumn fields of gold,
And chapels adorned with steeples fair
Rang bells against the morning cold
Calling the pleasant and faithful there
To come and nourish thirsting souls.
Your faith has kept your pillars strong,
My heritage from days of old,
How blessed am I to call you home.

Your vaulted domes, in blue mist crowned,
Listen to babbling brooks shower chambers
Beneath, rich treasures there are found.
From afar they come to see your sights,
And hear your song, from Memphis to
Bristol, your cities shine bright.
For in distant lands your light has shown,
Oh Valiant Volunteer, you gave hope
To those you had never known.
Come to me in my dreams tonight
Oh beloved home in Tennessee,
When I wake with morning's light,
May I again be near to thee.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.